

Appl. No. 09/955,555  
Amdt. dated October 8, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2003

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 3-4 with the following amended paragraph:

This is a continuation of application of Serial No. 08/559,968, filed November 17, 1995, which application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/005,701 (Our Docket No. GC278) filed on October 17, 1995.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 18-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4. Structure of plasmid pGEX-5X-3 for *E. coli* expression. This plasmid contains the coding sequence of glutathione-S-transferase under the control of the *E. coli* lac promoter. Multiple unique restriction sites (SEQ ID NO:30) were engineered immediately following the coding region of the GST protein and allow the creation of various protein fusions with GST protein. A cleavage sequence of protease Factor Xa was also engineered in the junction to allow the GST protein to be cleaved from the fusion protein (SEQ ID NO:31).

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 30-34 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 6. The amino acid sequence of the first (1-153) and second (154-306) internal repeating units followed by the CBD (239-531) sequence of Scaffoldin (SEQ ID NO:29). As described in Example 6, this protein was expressed in the form of GST fusion protein and was cleaved off from the GST protein moiety by the treatment of protease Factor Xa.